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of testing this hypothesis, and of distinguishing the two classes of disturbances, if they really co-exist. The inspection of these observations has nearly satisfied him of the truth of this view ; and he believes that it will be found, upon a more minute examination, that there are *two classes of disturbances*, one *periodical and local*, the other *irregular and universal*. Of the former, the principal (if not the only one) is that which occurs about 10 P. M., and which causes the north pole of the magnet to deviate to the east. The magnitude of this disturbance is on the average 10'.0 ; and its mean duration is an hour and a half. The epoch of the maximum of easterly deflection varies from 7½ P. M., to 1½ A. M., the mean epoch being a few minutes before 10 P. M. ; and, hence, it is evident, that its effect on the monthly mean curve is to produce a general increase of the negative ordinate between these limits of time, as well as the minimum which occurs at 10 P. M.

It seems to follow also, from these facts, that the ordinary mode of grouping the observations, by taking the mean of all the results at the same hour,—although it truly gives the *mean* diurnal curve for the period embraced by the observations,—does not represent the actual course of the movement during any one day. In order to obtain the *representative*, or *type* curve, as it may be called, it seems necessary to combine the results in a different manner, of which the author hopes to speak more fully upon a future occasion.

Mr. Ball exhibited a specimen of *Apteryx Australis*, recently purchased for the University Museum, and made some observations on the species, referring to the elaborate papers of Yarrell and Owen in the Transactions of the Zoological Society of London. He noticed the adaptation of the position of the nostrils of the bird to its wants ; being placed at the end of the bill, it is enabled, by its powerful olfactory apparatus, to detect the burrowing larvæ on which it feeds. This is accomplished by snipes, woodcocks, &c., by means of ex-

traordinary development of nerves on the end of the bill. They obtain their food by the delicacy of their power of feeling, as the Apteryx does by its powers of smelling.

Professor Graves read the following memorandum in reference to the discovery of the remains of a cedar ship, near Tyrella, in the county of Down, by George A. Hamilton, Esq., M. P. :

“ About the year 1796, the late Mr. Hamilton, in pulling down some old buildings at Tyrella, found, to his surprise, that the beams, lintels, &c., were composed of cedar. On inquiry, he was informed that there was a tradition (for even then it was but a tradition) that a large ship, from the coast of Guinea, laden with slaves, ivory and gold dust, had been wrecked, a great many years previous to the Bay of Dundrum, and a considerable portion showed up in the sands near Tyrella; and though the lapse of so many years, had undergone considerable changes, there was still a mark known by the country people under the name of ‘The Cedar Ship.’ I remember this well when a child. There were two pieces of wood, covered with sea-weed, to be seen at very low tides, sticking up in the sand.

“ About the year 1815, my father, having collected a number of men, and having made an excavation in the sands, discovered the upper works of the ship, and succeeded in obtaining six elephants’ tusks, a considerable quantity of cedar, a silver goblet, and the remains of chains supposed to be those with which the slaves had been confined.

“ The situation of the wreck being under the level of low water, and the soft oozy nature of the sand rendering the work extremely difficult, prevented his proceeding further with the excavation.

“ On the 10th of November, 1829, it occurred to me to make a similar attempt. The marks of the ship had been long effaced, and I found some difficulty in discovering the place. I succeeded, however, and in one tide I obtained six-